in luggage charges as compared to the parcel rates with effect from January 16,1992; and

(b) if so, whether the lower class passengers are allowed less luggage free of charges; if so, the details in this regard and the reasons for such discrimination in particular and the hike in general ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) The luggage rates have been fixed at 30% higher than the General Parcel rates w.e.f. 16-1-1992 as against 10% earlier.

(b) There is no reduction in the free allowance on luggage because of the hike in luggage rate. The existing free allowance on luggage is as follows :

II Class	35Kgs.
AC. Chair Car . . .	40 kgs.
A.C. Sleeper/I Class . .	50 kgs.
A.C. I Class . . .	70 kgs.

Passengers paying fare for higher class of accommodation are given more free allowance than those of lower class.

The increase in luggage rat; is uniformly applicable.

Konkan Railway Project

358. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased I to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Konkan Railway project is facing problems and is likely to be delayed ; an d

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and the steps taken by Govern ment in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

New train from Shirdi to Bombay

359. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to start a new train called 'Sai Express* from Shirdi to Bombay ;

(b)ifso, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(e) Due to operational and resource constraints.

Conversion of Metre Gauge

360. SHRI MENTAY PADMA-NABHAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government propose to convert all matre-gague lines into broad-gauge; and

(b) What are the datails of proposals for conversion of metre-gauge lines in Andhra Pradesh during next three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) The Government propose to selectively convert M.G. lines to B.G. to move towards a Uni-gauge system.

(b) The lines selected for conversion in Andhra-Pradesh during the VIII Plan include Guntur-Guntakat-KaUuru ; Dronachalam-Secunderabad-Bolaram ; Katpadi-Pakala-Tirupati; Rayadurg-Obulapuram of Rayadurg Bellary section.

"Cancettatfon of Express Trains in South Central Railways

361. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that the South Central Railway has cancelled some of the express trains recently to save diesel;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) What is its impact on the passenger traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS SHRI MALLIKARJUN) r (a) to (c) 5 pairs of trains which serve South Central Railway have been temporarily cancelled and will be restored during April, 1992 . In view of alternative connecting services being avatfableand this being a lean period , there has not been much impact on passenger traffic.